



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PROJECT CEASEFIRE
JURY CONVICTS KC MAN OF ILLEGAL FIREARM

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Kansas City, Mo., man has been convicted by a federal trial jury of illegally possessing a firearm.

Duane C. Carter, 22, of Kansas City, was found guilty of being a felon in possession of a firearm.

Following the presentation of evidence in **Carter's** trial, the jury in U.S. District Court in Kansas City deliberated about four hours before returning the guilty verdict to U.S. District Judge Nanette K. Laughrey, ending a trial that began Tuesday.

While investigating a robbery at a local restaurant, Graves said, police officers visited **Carter's** apartment on May 18, 2004. **Carter** wasn't at home, but after receiving permission to search the apartment from his sister and girlfriend, who also lived at the residence, they found a Sturm Ruger 9 mm semi-automatic pistol inside the closet in **Carter's** bedroom. **Carter** was arrested on Sept. 27, 2004, and indicted by a federal grand jury on Dec. 14, 2004.

Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for anyone who has been convicted of a felony to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Carter** has two prior felony convictions for trafficking drugs in Jackson County, Mo.

Under federal statutes, **Carter** could be subject to a sentence of up to 10 years in federal prison without parole, plus a fine up to \$250,000. A sentencing hearing will be scheduled after the completion of a presentence investigation by the United States Probation Office.

Project Ceasefire

Project Ceasefire, launched in October 1999, is a cooperative initiative by federal and

local law enforcement and the Kansas City Crime Commission that targets for federal prosecution persons who unlawfully use or possess firearms.

This case is being prosecuted by Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Stefan C. Hughes and Assistant U.S. Attorney David Barnes. It was investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow/index.html